THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) In order to reduce the dependence on imported steel melting scrap, increase of production of sponge iron which is a partial substitute of scrap is being encouraged. Taking into account the expected production of sponge iron, a recent study by Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited has estimated the demand of steel melting scrap of Mini Steel Plants (electric furnaces), iron foundries and integrated steel plants (excluding their own generation) at 5.25 million tonnes and 6.24 million tonnes in 1992-93 and 1996-97, respectively, against which indigenous availability is estimated 2.95 million tones and 3.79 million tonnes, respectively. Thus the import requirement is about 2.5 million tonnes.

(c) Gas allocation has been made to the following sponge iron projects for meeting the domestic demand.

(in Million Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location of Project	Capacity
1.	M/s. ESSAR Gujarat Ltd.	Hazira, Gujarat.	0.8
2.	M/s. GRASIM Industries Limited.	Raigad, Maharashtra.	0.6
3.	M/s. Nippon Denro Ispart Limited.	Raigad, Maharashtra.	1.0
4.	M/s. Usha Rectifier Corporation Ltd.	Jagdishpur (Sultanpur) U.P.	0.8
5.	M/s. Kalyani-Konkan Sponge Limited.	Rigad, Maharashtra.	0.75

Excess payment of customs duty by SAIL

3409. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in a Report in 1987 Part IX made certain observations about excess payment of Customs duty by the Transport and Shipping Department of SAIL on an imported consignment of Driving Spindle which was cleared in October, 1986 from Calcutta Port after payment of Customs duty of Rs. 63.62 lakhs on 15th October, 1986 when the customs duty leviable was only Rs. 6.362 lakhs;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Departmental Head, the then Chief (Transport and Shipping) was informed by Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) on 9th April, 1987 about abnormally high customs duty;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the refund of Rs. 57.26 lakhs was obtained in April, 1988 from the customs which resulted into loss of interest of Rs. 15.52 lakhs;

(d) whether it is a fact that the then Director (Commercial) had confirmed that he would chargesheet the Departmental Head;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the then Departmental Head was instead given out of turn promotions; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) On 09-04-1987, Rourkela Steel Plant intimated the Finance Depart-

ment of the Branch Transport and Shipping Office, Calcutta about excess payment of custom duty.

(c) The refund of Rs. 57.26 lakhs was made by customs in favour of SAIL on April 13, 1988. Custom Department do not give any interest to the assessee on the claims lodged for refund of duty paid in excess.

During the intervening period, loss of interest of Rs. 15.52 lakhs appears to have been calculated at the rate of 18 per cent per annum. This may be construed as loss to SAIL.

(d) and (e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Setting up of merchant pig iron plant at Mangalore

3410. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kudremukh iron ore company is likely to set up a merchant pig iron plant at Mangalore;

(b) if so, what is the estimated in vestment and capacity of the plant;

(c) whether any feasibility report has been prepared on the plant; and

(d) if so, the salient features of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (a) to (d) Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) is examining a proposal for setting up a merchant pig iron plant at Mangalore and has taken action to get a Feasibility Report prepared in this regard.

Steel Production

3411. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any White Paper was released in mid-seventies indicating that the Steel Production would be pushed up to 75 million tonnes by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, what are the results achieved till date and likely to be achieved by 2000 A.D.; and

(c) what are the steps undertaken by the Ministry to modernise the existing SAIL units and complete the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the amount needed and granted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) A White Paper on Steel Industry was brought out in mid seventies by the Government in which it was envisaged that steel production capacity of about 75 million tonnes would be created by the turn of the country.

(b) The total production of finished steel in the country during 1991-92 was 14.2 MT and is expected to reach to a level of about 24 MT in 1996-97.

(c) Government have already approved the schemes for the modernisation of Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants. These are under implementation. The proposals for modernisation of Bokaro and IISCO Plants are under examination of the Government. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been fully commissioned in July, 1992 and the total cost of the project is being estimated at Rs. 8343.73 crores and so far an amount of Rs. 7491.55 crores has been spent till May, 1992. The full capacity utilisation is anticipated by the year 1996-97.

इस्पात उद्योग का विकास

3412. **डा. जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि योजना आयोग ने आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में